

meet what they saw as a need in their community. A synopsis of Gold Award projects is provided here.

Kellie Miner, Vergennes, VT is a musician with a gift for teaching youth. Kellie developed an after school music program teaching guitar and keyboards at her local elementary school with another Senior Girl Scout from her community. Kellie knows that musical education enhances children's ability to focus, to practice numerical and language skills and to feel a sense of success. Kellie served children from Kindergarten through sixth grade. Though the age range was a bit broad, she enjoyed teaching something she loves. She believes that her Girl Scout Gold Award Project will influence her to decide about a future as a high school choral director.

Cassie Charlebois, Vergennes, VT was the song leader for the after school music program she developed with another Senior Girl Scout from her community. Cassie collaborated on the project with the hope of engaging children in the fun and sense of group cooperation that singing provides. Cassie taught music to younger children who had varying reading abilities through repetition and reinforcement with the words written out on a flip chart. She organized a closing concert and invited the community. Cassie feels her own personal growth was in discovering her success as a teacher and overcoming shyness. She knows that her project has reminded children of the importance of music in their lives.

Katie McEnerney of Vergennes, VT is an artist. Her Gold Award Project was to collaborate with a fellow Senior Girl Scout to restore a playground structure at a local preschool. Katie first had to communicate with the school's administration to explain how the playground area could be improved. She selected a colorful rainbow theme, created the plans, and sketched the designs over the entire wooden structure inside and out. Katie was also concerned about the structure's stability and the over all safety of the playground. Her involvement in this Gold Award Project has been one that required careful planning, negotiating skills and a sense of timing so that the project would not inhibit the school schedule. Katie hopes to continue her skills through a career in the arts.

Linnea Oosterman of Vergennes, VT is interested in art. Linnea chose to collaborate with a fellow Senior Girl Scout to restore a playground structure at a local preschool. Linnea contributed to the project by securing the necessary materials, painting the design created by her partner and helping to restore the safety of the playground by sanding and treating the wood before painting. She completed the project by building a sandbox around the base. Linnea was primarily concerned that the children have a fun, safe and colorful place to play. Linnea chose this project as a worthwhile activity that she hopes will improve the playspace and make her a better artist.

Stephanie Leonard of Marrisville, VT is a musician who plays several instruments. In her community it is sometimes challenging for families to find adequate after school child care that is fun, accessible and safe. Stephanie developed an after school arts program for the Bishop Marshall Catholic School as part of their ongoing after school offerings. Stephanie incorporated both her musical talents and her interest in arts and crafts in the

activities for the children. Stephanie enjoyed working with the children and found the collaboration with the existing after school program goals to blend well with her own vision of a fun experience for youth.

Rebecca Robare of Rutland, VT is a multiply talented young woman. As a past member of our Board of Directors, Becky was personally involved in policy decisions at the Council. Becky chose her Gold Award Project to respond to what she felt was a lack of creative statewide offerings for older girls through the Vermont Girl Scout Council. This project was her attempt to create change on a programmatic level. Becky chose to host an event at the Fletcher Farm School for Arts and Crafts. She coordinated use of space for activities, meals, lodging and entertainment and collected her own registrations. Becky learned a great deal about her organizational abilities and how to effectively communicate with numerous players in hosting of this event. The success of the event was evident from the evaluations of girls in attendance.

IN SUPPORT OF WORKER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Senate Bill 2323, the Worker Economic Opportunity Act. I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation that amends the Fair Labor Standards Act and allows hourly employees to take advantage of stock option plans offered by their companies.

Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons we call the New Economy the New Economy is because of the new opportunities and new wealth created by the groundkeeping technology industries. And in these technology industries, new opportunities for sharing in the wealth and success of companies are available to everyone.

In old business models, many junior employees were paid an hourly wage and if they gained some sonority they might be offered some type of stock purchase plan. In the new model used by technology companies, every employee gets to share in the wealth of it. When employees join the company, they have an opportunity to own a piece of the company. When the company goes public, they can exercise their options and share in the company's success.

In my District—which includes Silicon Valley—new companies are born every day. One reason people are attracted to this area and are willing to work at an hourly wage is because they can share in the dream of achieving the success and wealth created by these companies.

The Department of Labor took a short-sighted approach when it issued its opinion last year stating that stock option plans are not exempt from the regular rate of pay provisions. I'm pleased that the Labor Department now supports this bill which amends the current law, thereby voiding its earlier opinion.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Reserve estimates that in the last two years approximately 17 percent of U.S. firms have introduced stock option programs. Additionally, another 37 per-

cent have broadened the eligibility in their existing plans. This legislation is about expanding the winner's circle for employees. If the Labor Department's initial view on this issue were allowed to stand, it would have resulted in the exclusion of hourly workers participating in the financial success of the businesses they have had in shaping.

There are secretaries and other hourly wage workers in my Congressional District who have become millionaires because of the success of their stock option plans. This wouldn't have happened if their option plan had been calculated into their overtime pay table. This has happened because companies with vision created business plans that included a model where every employee benefits when the company succeeds.

We should exercise the same vision and pass this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on this legislation.

IN TRIBUTE TO DAVID MERRICK

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of David Merrick, a legendary Broadway producer who passed away last Tuesday at the age of 88. The Broadway theater community, which I represent, owes a great debt to the talents of David Merrick. Merrick was responsible for bringing to audiences such great works as *Gypsy*, *Hello Dolly*, *42nd Street*, and *Oliver!*, as well as dozens of other productions. His living legacy is proven every time one of his masterpieces returns to the "Great White Way."

Born to a poor family in St. Louis, Merrick grew up to become a major force in the Broadway theater. Producing a half-dozen or more plays and musicals in a typical season, it was estimated that at times he employed up to 20 percent of Broadway's workforce, while his shows amassed countless Tony Awards for excellence in the theater.

Feared as well as respected by those in the industry, he had a flair for showmanship and publicity that set him apart, stopping at nothing to gain recognition for his plays.

David Merrick could be ruthless, tyrannical, even downright nasty, and he reveled in his reputation as "the abominable showman," but he loved the Broadway theater and he spent his life bringing to the stage works that moved us and entertained us.

Today, the lights on Broadway shine a little less brightly with the passing of this great showman.

LETTER CARRIERS PARTICIPATE IN FOOD DRIVE FOR NATION'S NEEDY

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the National Association of Letter Carriers for their outstanding efforts to help those

who are hungry in communities across the nation. On May 13, 2000, local branches of the Letter Carriers, along with the United Way and the United States Postal Service, will kick off their annual food drive to collect non-perishable food and other essential items for families in need.

Residents of Amarillo, Canyon, Hereford, Dumas and Tulia, Texas will be asked to place non-perishable food items, paper products or hygiene items by their mailboxes. The letter carriers will pick these items up on May 13th and deliver them to the High Plains Food Bank. The donations received through this food drive will help fill the need for food distribution throughout the summer months.

This food drive is a worthwhile and important project, and has been extremely helpful to a large number of families over the years. In fact, 83,000 pounds of food were collected last year from postal routes across the Panhandle and sent to the High Plains Food Bank, currently serving over 5,200 families each month. The goal this year is to raise over 90,000 pounds of food. I am confident that our community will rise to meet this challenge.

The Amarillo branch of the National Association of Letter Carriers is deserving of our full support and I praise them for their work in the fight against hunger. Together, with such individual acts of generosity, we can help stop the growing problem of hunger on the High Plains.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained today, May 3, 2000.

If I had been present for rollcall No. 133, I would have voted "yes."

If I had been present for rollcall No. 134, I would have voted "yes."

If I had been present for rollcall No. 135, I would have voted "yes."

If I had been present for rollcall No. 136, I would have voted "yes."

If I had been present for rollcall No. 137, I would have voted "yes."

If I had been present for rollcall No. 138, I would have voted "yes."

If I had been present for rollcall No. 139, I would have voted "yes."

If I had been present for rollcall No. 140, I would have voted "yes."

If I had been present for rollcall No. 141, I would have voted "yes."

WILKES-BARRE LAW AND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an organization of which I am proud to be a member, the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association. I am pleased and honored to have been asked to participate in the 150th anniversary of its founding.

Founded in 1850 by the leading attorneys of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, the Association was first known as the Wilkes-Barre Law Association. As the bar association for all of Luzerne County, the association soon adopted the longer name of Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association, which is how it is still known today.

Its original function was a law library for its membership. Because of the expense of older law books dating back to the Civil War era, it was an attempt to create a central law library as a less costly way for lawyers of the day to have an important resource in their practices. The original library contained around 2000 volumes. Throughout the years, the library has expanded and by 1968 contained over 21,000 volumes of law books including English law. Some of the oldest volumes date back to the early 1700's and the library is one of the finest in the nation to this day.

The membership of the Association currently includes 649 members and has had a total of over 1,600 members in good standing in its 150-year history. Its first president was the Honorable Hendrick B. Wright, a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature, and Andrew McClintock and George B. Nicholson served as the first treasurer and secretary, respectively.

Many of the original names on the membership list are quite familiar to those of us in the Wyoming Valley—Welles, Dennison, Bidlack, Conyngham, Wright—as even to this day many of our streets and communities bear these distinguished names. Many served in the Pennsylvania Legislature and were icons of the era. At least 14 members of the Association were elected to the U.S. Congress, myself included. The Association also boasts three governors among its ranks: Henry Hoyt, Arthur James, and John S. Fine.

Mr. Speaker, the list of appellate and state supreme court justices from this bar association's membership list is too long to name all of them here, but that list includes some of the most distinguished jurists in the Commonwealth's history. One of its most famous was Chief Justice Gibson, whose case precedents were considered the most widely read in his era and were cited regularly by courts as far away as Westminster, England.

Currently in senior status, Third Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Max Rosenn is a highly respected member of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association. With my strong support, the Congress recently renamed the Wilkes-Barre Federal Courthouse in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association is the oldest and most distinguished legal institution in Northeastern Pennsylvania. It is the center of the legal community in Luzerne County and its library is a great resource to its membership. I am extremely proud to be a member and to have this opportunity to bring its history to the attention of my colleagues in the House of Representatives. I send my sincere best wishes on this milestone anniversary and for the future of the legal profession in Luzerne County.

GARY EVERHARDT: PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and commend a great public servant of Western North Carolina and the National Park Service, Gary Everhardt, Superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Gary has been devoted to making our National Parks cleaner, safer and more enjoyable for future generations. Today marks the beginning of Gary's well-earned retirement.

Gary is a native of Western North Carolina and is a product of the Lenoir North Carolina School System. He graduated in 1957 with a degree in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University and immediately began work for the Park Service as a civil engineer for the Blue Ridge Parkway. He has served in engineering positions at the Park Service's Southeast and Southwest offices. Gary was also named the Superintendent of Grand Teton National Park in January 1972. While there he helped orchestrate and conduct the Second World Conference on National Parks. For his effort and hard work, Gary was awarded the Department of the Interiors Meritorious Service Award.

President Gerald Ford recognized Everhardt's dedication, professionalism, and hard work as he named Gary the ninth director of the National Park Service on January 13, 1975. It was under Gary's leadership that the Park Service saw a period of unbridled growth and success. The Park took great steps in the areas of visitor services and safety. Gary, with President Ford's approval, proposed doubling the park size with the purchase of nearly 32 million acres of land in Alaska.

Gary returned home to the Blue Ridge Parkway in 1977 to assume leadership as the fifth Superintendent of the Parkway and since that time Gary has worked diligently to improve relations with neighbors of the Parkway and government agency officials. Gary took a construction program that was near death and revived it. The final section of the Parkway motor road at Grandfather Mountain was completed in 1987. During Everhardt's tenure, the number of visitors to the park has risen to over 25 million.

I would like to add my tribute to Gary to the long list of honors that he has received in the past. In 1985 Everhardt received the Department of the Interior's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. In 1990 he received the Cornelius Amory Pugsley Medal from the National Park Foundation for stellar contributions to the advancement of parks and recreation. In September 1998 Gary received the Walter T. Cox award at the George B. Hertzog Lecture at Clemson University, this Award recognized Gary's sustained public achievement in wise management of natural and cultural resources.

Everhardt has a long list of involvement in other agencies and groups including his roles as Past President of the Asheville Federal Executive Association, a member of the Board of Directors of the Appalachian Consortium, and as a member of the North Carolina National Parks, Parkway & Forestry Development Council.